



General Assembly

## ***Amendment***

***February Session, 2022***

**LCO No. 4860**



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Offered by:

REP. CANDELORA V., 86<sup>th</sup> Dist.

REP. DEVLIN, 134<sup>th</sup> Dist.

REP. O'DEA, 125<sup>th</sup> Dist.

REP. PERILLO J., 113<sup>th</sup> Dist.

REP. REBIMBAS, 70<sup>th</sup> Dist.

REP. ZUPKUS, 89<sup>th</sup> Dist.

REP. BUCKBEE, 67<sup>th</sup> Dist.

To: Subst. House Bill No. **5430**

File No. 416

Cal. No. 295

### ***"AN ACT CONCERNING OPIOIDS."***

1 After the last section, add the following and renumber sections and  
2 internal references accordingly:

3 "Sec. 501. Section 17a-673b of the 2022 supplement to the general  
4 statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof  
5 (*Effective from passage*):

6 (a) As used in this section:

7 (1) "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Mental Health and  
8 Addiction Services;

9 (2) "Department" means the Department of Mental Health and  
10 Addiction Services;

11 (3) "Opioid use disorder" means a medical condition characterized by

12 a problematic pattern of opioid use and misuse leading to clinically  
13 significant impairment or distress; and

14 (4) "Peer navigator" means a person who (A) has experience working  
15 with persons with substance use disorder, as defined in section 20-74,  
16 (B) provides nonmedical mental health care and substance use services  
17 to such persons, and (C) has a collaborative relationship with a health  
18 care professional authorized to prescribe medications to treat opioid use  
19 disorder.

20 (b) On or before January 1, [2022] 2023, the department shall establish  
21 [, within available appropriations,] a pilot program in urban, suburban  
22 and rural communities to serve persons with opioid use disorder in such  
23 communities. The department shall establish the pilot program in up to  
24 five such communities in accordance with such terms and conditions as  
25 the commissioner may prescribe.

26 (c) Each community in which the pilot program is established under  
27 subsection (b) of this section shall form a team of at least two peer  
28 navigators. The team shall work in the community to (1) increase  
29 engagement between providers of treatment services, health care and  
30 social services and persons with opioid use disorder, (2) improve the  
31 retention of such persons in treatment for opioid use disorder by  
32 addressing social determinants of health of such persons and emerging  
33 local conditions that affect such social determinants of health, and (3)  
34 increase the capacity of the community to support such persons by  
35 identifying and addressing systemic barriers to treatment services,  
36 health care, social services and social support of such persons. The team  
37 shall (A) travel throughout the community to address, in person, the  
38 health care and social needs of persons with opioid use disorder, and  
39 (B) be accessible to such persons through (i) a telephone number that  
40 has texting capabilities, and (ii) social media. Each peer navigator that  
41 participates in the pilot program shall receive regularly updated  
42 training, as determined by the commissioner, on noncoercive and  
43 nonstigmatizing methods for engaging those with opioid use disorder.

44 (d) On or before January 1, [2023] 2024, the commissioner shall report,  
45 in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a, to the joint standing  
46 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters  
47 relating to public health regarding the success of the pilot program in  
48 serving persons with opioid use disorder and any recommendations for  
49 continuing the pilot program or expanding the pilot program into other  
50 communities in the state.

51 Sec. 502. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2022*) (a) A person is guilty of  
52 manslaughter in the second degree through the sale of illegal drugs  
53 when such person causes the death of another person by selling illegal  
54 drugs to such other person which caused such other person to fatally  
55 overdose.

56 (b) Manslaughter in the second degree through the sale of illegal  
57 drugs is a class C felony for which one year of the sentence imposed may  
58 not be suspended or reduced by the court.

59 Sec. 503. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2022*) (a) There is established, within  
60 the Office of Governmental Accountability established under section 1-  
61 300 of the general statutes, an Office of the Chief Drug Policy Officer.  
62 The Governor, with the approval of the General Assembly, shall appoint  
63 a person with knowledge of substance use disorders and services to  
64 serve as Chief Drug Policy Officer. The person appointed Chief Drug  
65 Policy Officer shall serve for a term of four years and may be  
66 reappointed or shall continue to hold office until a successor is  
67 appointed and qualified.

68 (b) Notwithstanding any other provision of the general statutes, the  
69 Chief Drug Policy Officer shall act independently of any state  
70 department in the performance of the officer's duties.

71 (c) The Chief Drug Policy Officer may, within available funds,  
72 appoint such staff as may be deemed necessary. The duties of the staff  
73 may include the duties of the Chief Drug Policy Officer if performed  
74 under the direction of the officer.

75 (d) The General Assembly may annually appropriate such sums as  
76 necessary for the payment of the salaries of the staff and for the payment  
77 of office expenses and other actual expenses incurred by the Chief Drug  
78 Policy Officer in the performance of the officer's duties.

79 (e) The Chief Drug Policy Officer shall annually submit, in  
80 accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes,  
81 to the Governor and the joint standing committees of the General  
82 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to the judiciary and  
83 public health a detailed report analyzing the work of the Office of the  
84 Chief Drug Policy Officer.

85 Sec. 504. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2022*) The Chief Drug Policy Officer  
86 may, within available appropriations:

87 (1) Evaluate the delivery of services to individuals with substance use  
88 disorders by state agencies and those entities that provide services to  
89 individuals with substance use disorders, including the delivery of  
90 services to families of individuals with substance use disorders;

91 (2) Receive and review complaints of persons concerning the actions  
92 of any state or other entity providing services to individuals with  
93 substance use disorders and investigate those where it appears that an  
94 individual with a substance use disorder or a family of an individual  
95 with a substance use disorder may be in need of assistance from the  
96 Chief Drug Policy Officer;

97 (3) Ensure a centralized location for information regarding substance  
98 use disorder services;

99 (4) Recommend changes in state policies concerning substance use  
100 disorders, including changes in the system of providing services to  
101 individuals with substance use disorders;

102 (5) Conduct programs of public education, undertake legislative  
103 advocacy and make proposals for systemic reform; and

104 (6) Take appropriate steps to advise the public of the services of the

105 Office of the Chief Drug Policy Officer, the purpose of the office and  
106 procedures to contact the office."

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Sec. 501	<i>from passage</i>	17a-673b
Sec. 502	<i>October 1, 2022</i>	New section
Sec. 503	<i>July 1, 2022</i>	New section
Sec. 504	<i>July 1, 2022</i>	New section